

Why You Shouldn't Allow Your Child to Smoke Marijuana



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Some parents who saw marijuana being widely used in their youth have wondered, "Is marijuana really so bad for my child?" The answer is an emphatic "yes," and parents should familiarize themselves with these reasons:

- ✓ Marijuana now exists in forms that are stronger - with higher levels of THC, the psychoactive ingredient - than in the 1960s.
- ✓ Studies show that someone who smokes five joints a week may be taking in as many cancer-causing chemicals as someone who smokes a full pack of cigarettes every day.
- ✓ Marijuana is illegal. Hanging around users of marijuana often means being exposed not only to other drugs later on, but also to a lifestyle that can include trouble in school, engaging in sexual activity while young, unintended pregnancy, difficulties with the law, and other problems.
- ✓ Marijuana use can slow down reaction time and distort perceptions. This can interfere with athletic performance, decrease a sense of danger, and increase risk of injury.
- ✓ Regular marijuana users can lose the ability to concentrate that is needed to master important academic skills, and they can experience short-term memory loss.

- ✓ Habitual marijuana users tend to do worse in school and are much more likely to drop out altogether.
- ✓ Teens who rely on marijuana as a chemical crutch and refuse to face the challenges of growing up never learn the emotional, psychological, and social lessons of adolescence.
- ✓ The research is not complete on the effects of marijuana on the developing brain and body.

